

CEDAR RIVER ANADROMOUS FISH COMMITTEE

Final Meeting Minutes

Summary Version

November 16, 2000

SPU Operations Control Center

Metering Building

2700 Airport Way South

Seattle, WA

Members Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Sam Wright (Washington Trout), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Assn), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Dennis Moore (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe), Roger Tabor (USFWS), Brodie Antipa, Steve Foley (WDFW), Dave Paden (Puget Sound Anglers), and Tom Sibley (NMFS).
Other participants: Bill Wells, Linda De Boldt (SPU), Dennis Dorratcague, Clint Smith (Montgomery Watson).

- I. Call to Order:** *The meeting was called to order by Bruce Bachen at 9:08 a.m.*
- II. Approval of Agenda:** *Bruce asked for any comments or additions regarding the proposed agenda for the meeting. Receiving none, the agenda was approved as submitted.*
- III. Approval of Minutes:** *Bruce mentioned that from now that summaries of the approved meeting minutes will be posted on the website URL address: <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/watershed/cedar/hcp/hcpcomandcom.htm#AFC>. Minutes from the October 19th meeting were discussed. Steve Foley asked for a change to the description of the chinook counts so that the reader clearly understands that escapement numbers reflect weakness in the returns and are not an artifact of high sockeye numbers interfering with counts or some other factor. A correction will be made and included in the finalized version.*
- IV. Fish Passage Project:** *Three technical memos, describing passage and sorting at Landsburg Dam, the fish screens for the water intake and downstream passage, were presented and discussed by the committee. There was committee interest in developing a juvenile sampling opportunity associated with the bypass water from the fish screens and this interest can be accommodated through fairly simple modifications at the outlet of the pipe. Details of the designs were discussed including flow rates, depths and velocities through the facilities as well as how salmon would respond to the designs as presented. The agency engineers have requested higher flows through the fish ladder at Landsburg Dam and the design will be adjusted to accommodate this request.*

Natt McDougall Company is now involved in the design, planning and estimating costs of the project, providing their expertise to better ensure that construction will proceed smoothly and that cost estimates are realistic.

Discussion of options for providing passage at the aqueduct continued at this meeting, but no preferred option was selected. Additional information regarding the feasibility of a rock weir design is being sought and further consultation with the agency fish passage engineers will occur prior to the next AFC meeting.

IV. Hatchery Program Development Progress Report:

Selection of a Design Consultant

The AFC was advised that SPU is beginning the process of selecting a design consultant for the hatchery. A list of potential tasks was distributed for their review and input.

Alternative Broodstock Solutions:

A contract is being developed to have a consultant review options for weir and trap designs for consideration as broodstock collection alternatives. The review will include an analysis of the present facility and operations and provide recommendations on how this approach could be optimized. Results are expected by March.

Short Term Rearing:

Experiments to evaluate the effects of short term rearing are being planned to start with fry from this year's eggtake. Plans developed by WDFW in consultation with the Cedar River Sockeye Technical Committee were presented. Two experimental groups will be coupled with two control groups to evaluate the effects of short term rearing on survival. Otolith marking plans for this year's fry will allow each of the groups included in the experiment to be identifiable.

Cedar River Sockeye Technical Committee Meeting/Otolith Analysis Meeting:

The committee heard a report on the meeting held with WDFW on otolith analysis that is currently underway. Results are expected by July, 2001, with the exception of the Bear Creek samples which should be available by January, 2001. The analysis will be challenging due to the large number of factors which influence sampling procedures

Summary on Interim Hatchery Operations:

Brody said that WDFW removed the broodstock collection rack from the Cedar River two days ago without any problems. Egg take is up to 16 million, 5000 females spawned. Look to having 17 million eggs in incubator. Record year. Egg loss less than 7 percent. This is a low water year and the hatchery staff had to make some modifications on flows to incubators due to low flows.

Spawning Survey Report:

The number of chinook observed in the Cedar River is lower than last year. Perhaps there will be somewhere around 120 chinook spawning in the Cedar River. Last year it was 220. One of the lowest number years with the methodology being used this year. Last year, 180 active chinook redds were observed, but only about 50 were seen this year.

The sockeye counts in the Cedar River were at about 20,000 to 25,000 sockeye per week, fairly consistently throughout the main spawning period. Flat flows, flat fish counts. Preliminary estimate of total run is 125,000 fish. This is less than anticipated from lock counts. More than half of the redds are above the weir.

- V. Agenda for Next Meeting:** *As noted above, fish passage conceptual design will be discussed. Any requests for agenda items please give to Bruce. December 14th is the next meeting.*

VI. Public Comment Period:

No public were present at the meeting.

VII. Adjourn at 1:20 p.m.